



Merry Hill

Infant School and Nursery

Headteacher: Ms. Melissa Adams MA, NPQH

14th November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a wonderful week it has been at Merry Hill! The children have been busy learning both inside and outside the classroom; from planting new trees and exploring nature, to showing great respect during our Remembrance Assembly. We have also been proud to share our Maths Mastery approach with visiting schools and to celebrate our pupils' enthusiasm and kindness across the school.

A Happy Face

At Merry Hill, we believe that children learn best when they feel happy, safe and respected. That is why our behaviour curriculum, *The Merry Hill Way*, is central to everything we do.

This Autumn, our focus is on instilling the *core rules*: **Ready, Respectful, Safe**. They underpin all of our behaviour expectations and are carefully taught through assemblies, PSHE lessons and daily routines.

This week we have focused on the rule **Ready**:

- **EYFS** – *We work together to problem solve one step at a time.*
- **KS1** – *We learn from attempting challenges in different ways.*

Winter Fair (because this makes us happy)

We are officially counting down the days to our Winter Fair on **Friday 6th December!** Next Friday will be our **Socks for Chocs** collection, followed by **Bring a Bottle** the week after. Thank you in advance for your generosity; these contributions help to make the fair such a special event for our children and families.

Our wonderful **Friends of Merry Hill** team have already been busy behind the scenes preparing for the day. They have held a number of meetings, drawn up plans, and have even been spotted *under the stage* in true Merry Hill spirit! A huge thank you to them for their hard work, creativity and dedication.

We are also delighted to share that Mrs Khanderia and Miss Bullock will be co-chairing the Friends' Chair role this year. We are in very safe hands both for the Winter Fair and the months ahead and if we catch them looking even the slightest bit stressed on the big day, we will be ready with a warm cup of mulled wine (or two!) to show our appreciation for everything they do.

Please save the date as we are looking forward to welcoming you all for a festive and joyful community celebration.

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space

Sharing Our Expertise: Maths Mastery at Merry Hill

We are delighted to share that Mrs Ineson (Assistant Headteacher) has recently been recognised for her expertise in Maths Mastery.

She was invited to speak at a local Headteachers' meeting, where she discussed how we make teaching for mastery inclusive for all learners, how we embed mastery into whole school improvement, and how we support new teachers to quickly gain confidence and consistency in our approach.

We were also thrilled to welcome seven local schools to Merry Hill for a Maths Mastery showcase. Visitors observed our Year 2 (Swans) class in action and saw how our children approach mathematics with curiosity, confidence, and enthusiasm. Next week she will be hosting learning support assistants from various other schools as well.

Feedback from our visitors was incredibly positive, many commented on the clarity of teaching, the confidence of our pupils, and the calm, purposeful learning environment.

We are so proud to be sharing our practice and supporting other schools on their own mastery journeys. A huge well done to Mrs Ineson and the whole team for their continued dedication and commitment to ensuring every child develops a deep and lasting love of mathematics.

 A Growing Space

Growing Together: Our School's Green Transformation

In May last year, we had the pleasure of meeting Mr Anstey, a passionate volunteer from the Woodland Trust and a former headteacher, who kindly offered his time and expertise to help us enhance our school's wildlife area.

With his support, we successfully applied for a Woodland Trust tree pack and were thrilled to receive over 150 young saplings, trees, and bushes delivered to our school last Friday.

This week, our pupils have enthusiastically taken part, with Mr Johnson, in planting these new trees and bushes across our grounds. It has been a wonderful, hands-on learning experience, encouraging them to take pride in caring for the environment and to understand how small actions can make a big difference.

By expanding our wildlife area, we are not only improving biodiversity and creating natural habitats for birds and insects, but also building a living, outdoor classroom that promotes wellbeing, environmental awareness, and a love of nature.

This project is part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability, ensuring that our school continues to grow as a place where both children and the natural world can thrive.

A huge thank you to Mr Anstey and the Woodland Trust for their invaluable support in helping us make our grounds greener, wilder, and more beautiful for everyone. And to Mr Johnson for his hard work – and many blisters! - preparing the ground for all those trees and bushes!

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Remembrance Assembly

On Monday, we held our special Remembrance Assembly. The assembly was led by Reverend Andi, who taught the children about the meaning of Remembrance Day. Our military children beautifully recited their Poppy Poem, and some of our military parents spoke about their roles and experiences.

The children were captivated and listened with great respect; it was incredibly special to see our service families taking part. Following the assembly, the Year 2 children walked to the war memorial with Reverend Andi, Year 2 staff, and some parents.

All children showed the utmost respect, entering silently, listening carefully and demonstrating exemplary behaviour. We are very proud of the maturity and thoughtfulness they displayed during this important occasion. Thank you to everyone involved for continuing to make this such a special tradition for our Merry Hill community.

Community Values

At Merry Hill, we pride ourselves on being a warm, respectful and inclusive community. Our school is enriched by families from many different backgrounds, cultures and faiths, and we are committed to ensuring that every child and adult feels valued and celebrated.

As we move into a season of togetherness, I want to gently reaffirm that our Merry Hill way is rooted in kindness, respect and understanding. We continue to work hard to model these values for our children and to nurture a school environment where everyone feels safe and welcomed, regardless of race, religion or background. Thank you for helping us uphold the spirit of unity that makes our school so special.

Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who attended our Book Fair this week! We are so grateful for your support. The school receives a percentage of the sales, which will be used to purchase exciting new books for our children to enjoy in class and in the library. We will keep you posted about how we spend the money raised!

Have a restful weekend everyone.

Ms Melissa Adams
Headteacher

A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space



Meet father christmas church farm Ardeley



Selected dates in December

Festive Farm Entry includes

Christmas Activity Pack * Festive Woodland
Walk the farm & see the farm animals

Meet Father Christmas

Father Christmas in his outside grotto
(includes a quality toy)

Meet the Elves

Write a letter to Father Christmas

Write a wish for the Wish Tree

Bag up reindeer food & carrot to take home to Rudolph

Additional Activities

Santa Paws – bring your beloved pooches to meet

Father Christmas include treat & toy

Harvest your Own Christmas Tree

Festive Tractor & Trailer Ride

Feed the farm animals

Book online www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk

*This is an outdoor event so plenty of
fresh air. Wrap up warm & wear wellies!*

CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY
A Free Range Experience



A Happy Face, A Learning Place, A Growing Space